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Message Text

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12
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /105 W
---------- 048215
P 061033Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5763
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5874

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, KS, JA
SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION AGAINST JAPANESE EMBASSY

REF: SEOUL 5847

BEGIN SUMMARY: JAPANESE ACCOUNT OF SEPT 6 DEMONSTRATION AGAINST JAPANESE EMBASSY INDICATES IT PROBABLY CONDONED BY ROKG IN RETALIATION FOR FONMIN KIMURA'S REMARKS PRECEDING DAY RE LEGITIMACY OF ROKG. DAMAGE TO EMBASSY WAS LIMITED AND EMBASSY REGARDS IT AS SIMPLY ANOTHER MANIFESTATION OF ROK PRESSURE. ROKG PROMPTLY APOLOGIZED AND OFFERED TO COMPENSATE FOR DAMAGE. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPANESE EMBASSY COUNSELOR OKAZAKI TOLD CHARGE THAT JAPANESE EMBASSY HAD BEEN WARNED AT 0830 MORNING SEPT 6 TO EXPECT "MOST SEVER DEMONSTRATION YET" DURING COURSE OF DAY. EMBASSY WAS THEREFORE PREPARED. OKAZAKI SPOKE WITH WRY ADMIRATION OF CLEVER WAY IN WHICH POLICE WERE PROVIDED WITH FACE-SAVIING DEVICE. FIRST DEMONSTRATORS TO THREATEN EMBASSY WERE 50 TO 60 ELDERLY MEN AND WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE KWANGBOKHUE, A PATRIOTIC GROUP ASSOCIATED WITH STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AGAINST JAPAN. WHILE POLICE POINTEDLY RIVETED THEIR ATTENTION ON GENTLE EFFORT TO
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PREVENT ENTRY OF THESE CITIZENS INTO EMBASSY

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COURTYARD, GROUP OF 15 TO 20 YOUNG MEN WEARING "SUICIDE CORPS" HEADBANDS AND WITH STOMACHS BARED TO SHOW RITUAL INCISIONS (SOME OF WHICH HAD BEEN DOCTORED WITH MERCURO-CHROME TO MAKE IT APPEAR THEY HAD ACTUALLY BLED) SNEAKED INTO BUILDING FROM REAR. THEY ENTERED THROUGH BROKEN WINDOW IN GROUND FLOOR CONSULATE, ASCENDED STAIRCASE TO TERRACE ABOVE, AND ENTERED MAIN BUILDING THROUGH BROKEN WINDOW LEADING TO ACCOUNTANT'S OFFICE. ONLY SEVERE DAMAGE TOOK PLACE HERE. DEMONSTRATORS BROKE FURNISHINGS AND TORE UP RECORDS, BUT EMBASSY'S FUNDS AND SUPPLY OF WINE REMAINED SAFE BEHIND LOCKED VAULT DOOR.

2. DEMONSTRATORS THEN ASCENDED TO ROOF OF EMBASSY, WHERE THEY TORE DOWN JAPANESE FLAG. AFTER OCCUPYING BUILDING FOR 15-20 MINUTES, DEMONSTRATORS LEFT OF OWN ACCORD. AT SOME POINT, DEMONSTRATORS SET FIRE TO ONE EMBASSY CAR AND BROKE GLASS IN AMBASSADOR'S LIMOUSINE. POLICE AT NO TIME ENTERED BUILDING, AND OKAZAKI SAID "THEY REALLY WERE NOT TRYING." WHILE IN THE BUILDING THE DEMONSTRATORS MADE THREATENING GESTURES AND SHOUTED INSULTS AT JAPANESE STAFF, BUT ACTUALLY HIT ONLY TWO STAFF MEMBERS AND NEIGHER WAS INJURED.

3. OKAZAKI SAID AMB USHIROKU HAD TELEPHONED FONMIN KIM DONG-JO TO REQUEST POLICE PROTECTION AS SOON AS DEMONSTRATORS ENTERED BUILDING. FONMIN DISPATCHED ASST MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND DIRECTOR OF ASIAN BUREAU TO EMBASSY, WHERE THEY APOLOGIZED TO AMBASSADOR AND PROMISED THAT ROKG WOULD PAY FULL COMPENSATION FOR DAMGES.

4. ALL REPORTS INDICATE THAT DEMONSTRATION WAS INSPIRED BY REMARKS OF GAIMUSHO TREATIES BUREAU DIRECTOR, SECONDED BY FONMIN KIMURA, BEFORE DIET COMMITTEE SEPT 5, OKAZAKI SAID THAT HE WAS ON PHONE TO GAIMUSHO TO REQUEST CLARIFICATION OF PRESS REPORTS REGARDING THESE REMARKS WHEN DEMONSTRATION BROKE OUT. HE SWITCHED TO BLOW-BY-BLOW DESCRIPTION OF DEMON-STRATION AND NEVER DID GET HIS CLARIFICATION.

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5. ASST FONMIN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS KIM CHONG-TAE TOLD CHARGE THA PRIMIN HAS PUBLICLY INSTRUCTED FONMIN TO APOLOGIZE FORMALLY, HOME MINISTER TO AFFORD FULL PROTECTION, AND CONSTRUCTION MINISTRY TO REPAIR DAMAGES. KIM SAYS FONMIN IS SENDING FIRST PERSON NOTE IMMEDIATELY IN ORDER TO PREEMPT POSSIBLE JAPANESE PROTEST.
ERICSON

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